Compensation for workers in the Road Transport Sector

1697. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to fund compensation for workers in the road transport sector who lose their lives on the highway or are physically handicapped due to accidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of lives are lost on the National Highways every year, especially of drivers and working class people;

(c) what are the reasons that Government are ignoring their plight;

(d) whether States can be encouraged to set up a fund with matching grants from the Central Government to attend to this need;

(e) what steps Government are taking to improve national highway safety and reduce the carnage on roads; and

(f) whether it is a fact that no facilities have come up for workers on commercial vehicles along the highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f) It is a fact that thousands of lives are lost on the National Highways every year. Government are aware of the need to heighten road safety consciousness and in this regard, have taken the following main measures:—

1. Stricter requirements for issue of driving licences.

2. Formal training in driving in a driving school has been made a pre-requisite for issuance of licences to drive transport vehicles.

3. Maximum speed limits have been prescribed.

4. Stringent provision for compulsory inspection of vehicles.

5. Prescribing minimum technical qualifications for the officers of motor vehicles departments inspecting the vehicles.

6. Stringent penalities for unauthorise driving of vehicles, overspeeding, reckless driving and for violations relating to carriage of hazardous and dangerous goods, overloading of vehicles etc.

7. Efforts are made to improve the condition of roads so as to facilitate smooth flow of traffic.

8. Setting up of truck parking complexes/lay-byes.

The Workmen's Compensation Act provides for payment of compensation in the case of disablement or death resulting from accident arising out of and in the course of employment. It is applicable to drivers and workmen employed in connection with the loading or unloading of vehicles. The Act is based on the principle of employer's liability and is administered by the respective State Governments.

Deaths due to road accidents in the Country

1698. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths due to road accidents in the country during the year 1990; and

(b) the places with largest number of such deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As per information received from States, an estimated 55013 persons were killed in road accidents in the country during 1990.

(b) The metropolitan cities where more than five hundred deaths were reported in road accidents during the year 1990 are as under:—

Name of the City	No. of persons killed
1. Delhi . . .	1670
2. Bangalore . . .	562
3. Madras . . .	507

DTC bus services from Rohini, Delhi

1699. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sector 18 of Rohini in Delhi has not so far been connected with DTC bus service thus causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents particularly the school going children; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) On receipt of demand for provision of bus service to the residents of Rohini Sector 18, a survey was got conducted by DTC which revealed that Rohini Sector 18 is still in a developing stage and the roads are under construction. The road leading to Sector 18 of Rohini from the Outer Ring Road has not been provided with a proper gap in the central verge at Ring Road to facilitate easy right turning of the buses. The bus services of Route Nos. 111 (plus) (—), 126, 153, 883, 891, 986 and 187 with two LTD stop trips for Palika Kendra are available at Outer Ring Road which is at a walkable distance from Sector, 18, Rohini. The provision for bus services to Rohini Sector 18 depend upon the existence of motorable roads, provision of a proper gap by CPWD on the central verge of Outer Ring Road and availability of buses.

Purchase of Ships by Shipping Corporation of India

1700. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India's bid to acquire 15 ships from South Korean giant HYUNDAI has materialised;

(b) if not, when the validity period for acceptance of the said deal expires or any extension has been given by the South Korean firm to S.C.I. in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have since given the clearance to S.C.I. for this deal, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to buy 15 vessels from Hyundai Shipyard, South Korea.

(c) Does not arise.

Satellite Port at Ennore

1701. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a satellite port at Ennore; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There is a proposal under consideration to construct a new satellite port at Ennore near Madras at an estimated cost of Rs. 511.03 crores for handling thermal coal for thermal power plants in Tamil Nadu. The proposal envisages construction of two breakwaters, two berth and dredging for accommodating vessels upto 65,000 DWT and